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Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of new developments and the assistance accorded to Mongolia by the Secretariat and relevant United Nations bodies since the previous report on this subject (A/67/166) was issued in July 2012.

A major milestone was achieved on 17 September 2012 with parallel declarations by Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States, namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, regarding Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. During the period under review, Mongolia has continued to receive international recognition for its nuclear-weapon-free status and to promote other nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. It has continued to seek further institutionalization of its nuclear-weapon-free status.

The Government and people of Mongolia have received assistance from various United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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I. Introduction

1. In resolution 67/52, entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status", the General Assembly invited Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its independent foreign policy, its economic security and its ecological balance, as well as its nuclear-weapon-free status. The Assembly also appealed to the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region to support Mongolia's efforts to join the relevant regional security and economic arrangements. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the aforementioned necessary measures and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and is based on the information received to date concerning the implementation of the resolution from Mongolia, the Department of Political Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

II. Activities related to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status

2. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General in July 2012 (A/67/166), a major milestone has been passed. On 17 September 2012, Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States, namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, met at United Nations Headquarters in New York and signed two parallel declarations on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status (A/67/517-S/2012/760 and A/67/393-S/2012/721). On the occasion of the signing of the parallel declarations, Mongolia noted that they were the result of careful consultations and duly reflected the interests of all six States and the broader common interests of promoting the goals of nuclear non-proliferation and greater mutual trust and understanding. Mongolia further stated that the declarations bridged differences and laid the foundations of an agreed international arrangement regarding Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. Given its good-neighbourly relations with its two immediate neighbours, China and the Russian Federation, with which it did not have any territorial, border or other political dispute, Mongolia preferred but did not insist on a legally binding assurance from the five nuclear-weapon States. In their joint declaration, the five nuclear-weapon States affirmed their intent, as long as Mongolia maintains its nuclear-weapon-free status, to respect that status and not to contribute to any act that would violate it.

A. Activities regarding international recognition of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status

3. On 27 September 2012, the President of Mongolia, in his address to the general debate of the General Assembly, expressed appreciation to the five nuclear-

weapon States for signing the joint declaration reaffirming Mongolia's unique status and expressed the conviction that the dialogue on this issue would continue to make progress. He stated that Mongolia would host an event in 2015 in this regard.

4. Mongolia took part in the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons from 22 April to 3 May 2013 and submitted a working paper (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.22), which provided information about the signing of the two parallel declarations of 17 September 2012.

5. On 26 September 2013, the President of Mongolia attended the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. He stated that, in line with a vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world, over 20 years ago Mongolia had declared itself a single-State nuclear-weapon-free zone and had been working hard to institutionalize that status.

6. On 27 September 2013, in his address to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, the President emphasized that the joint declaration of the five nuclear-weapon States had ensured that Mongolia would not be used as a pawn in any future nuclear plans or strategies and that this constituted Mongolia's contribution to greater confidence and stability in the region.

7. During the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Mongolia consulted with the five nuclear-weapon States on its proposal to reflect, in a resolution of the General Assembly, the essence of the joint declaration. In March 2014, Mongolia presented an aide-memoire to the five nuclear-weapon States, in which it proposed that the issue be addressed prior to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. In May 2014, on the margins of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mongolia met with the five nuclear-weapon States to exchange views on the issue. They agreed to revert to this issue during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

8. In April 2014, Mongolia submitted to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) its second report on the implementation of the resolution (S/AC.44/2014/4) and to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1718 (2006) its second report on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013) (S/AC.49/2014/5).

9. On 28 and 29 April 2014, Mongolia hosted a workshop on national implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, co-organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the implementation support unit of the Biological Weapons Convention. In discussing issues relating to weapons of mass destruction, Mongolia underlined the importance of further disseminating information on its nuclear-weapon-free status, including the parallel declarations of 17 September 2012.

B. Recognition of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status at bilateral and multilateral meetings

10. The final document of the sixteenth summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Tehran, from 26 to 31 August 2012, expressed support for Mongolia's policy of institutionalizing its nuclear-weapon-free status and for the measures it had taken to consolidate and strengthen that status. In this regard the Heads of State and Government welcomed the start of talks between Mongolia and the nuclear-weapon States aimed at concluding an international instrument institutionalizing that status.

11. Mongolia co-chaired the second preparatory meeting of the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in Geneva on 26 April 2013 and participated in the third preparatory meeting, held in New York on 7 May 2014.

12. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons submitted working papers entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free zones" (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.20 and NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.14) at the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In those papers, the Group stated that it considered that the further institutionalization of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status would be an important step towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime in that region.

13. In October 2013, the World Future Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office for Disarmament Affairs announced that Mongolia's law on its nuclear-weapon-free status (2000) had won an honourable mention for the World Future Council Future Policy Award 2013 on disarmament.

14. The 17th mid-term ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Algiers on 28 and 29 May 2014, expressed support for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and its policy aimed at institutionalizing that status.

15. The declaration of the fourth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, held in Shanghai on 21 May 2014, welcomed the declarations of 17 September 2012 by Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States as a concrete contribution to non-proliferation and the enhancement of confidence and predictability in the region.

C. Normative consolidation and implementation of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status

16. On 14 September 2012, Mongolia organized a national conference to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of declaring its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The conference was attended by members of parliament, government officials, researchers and representatives of non-governmental organizations to take stock of their past activities and future efforts to institutionalize Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status.

17. In January 2014, the standing committee on security and foreign policy of the parliament of Mongolia set up a working group to monitor and evaluate the

implementation of the law on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and of parliamentary resolution 19 on measures to be taken in connection with the adoption of the law and other relevant legal acts. The working group submitted the following recommendations requesting the Government to:

(a) Cooperate with the five nuclear-weapon States, States parties to treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones and other States and international organizations to strengthen further Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status;

(b) Consider possible amendments to the law of Mongolia on its nuclear-weapon-free status and, if deemed necessary, submit the necessary proposals to the parliament;

(c) Report to the standing committee on implementation by Mongolian flag vessels of the implementation of the law on nuclear-weapon-free status, of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and of other legal commitments undertaken regarding international shipping security rules;

(d) Support the five-point nuclear disarmament proposal of the Secretary-General of 24 October 2008, in particular his proposal to undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament, especially negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention;

(e) Support placement of all non-military facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

18. In 2013 and 2014, a Mongolian non-governmental organization, Blue Banner, organized national round-table discussions to contribute ideas on ways and means of further institutionalizing Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and presented its conclusions to the Government for its consideration.

III. Non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security

19. The non-nuclear aspects of security constitute an important integral part of Mongolia's national policies aimed at strengthening its national security, primarily by political means, through broad cooperation based on its comparative advantage and its integration into regional cooperation mechanisms. The national security concept of Mongolia stipulates that national security shall be assured through the interrelationship between the "security of the existence of Mongolia", "economic security", "internal security", "human security", "environmental security" and "information security".

A. Economic security

20. The basic precondition for achieving and maintaining the economic security of Mongolia is the design and adoption of a sustainable development model that ensures economic independence and an environment for promoting human security and peaceful development.

21. Mongolia is currently one of the fastest growing economies in the world, with the growth in gross domestic product reaching 11.7 per cent in 2013. The country is benefiting from a booming mining industry, which is still far from realizing its full

potential, and the Government has stated its strong ambitions to use that wealth to improve the infrastructure and foster growth across different sectors, ultimately contributing to improving the lives of its people. However, the dependence of its economy on mining revenues exposes the country to commodity price volatility. The economy remains one-sided and fragile, heavily dependent on the import of oil and some consumer goods, while raw materials make up the largest proportion of its exports.

22. As a landlocked country, Mongolia is physically remote from world markets beyond its two immediate neighbours. The prevention of risks and threats associated with growth requires concerted actions on the part of all stakeholders. To that end, a series of discussions have been held over the past two years at the national level. On 16 October 2012, the Institute of Strategic Studies organized a scientific conference on the theme "Evaluation of the economic security of Mongolia". The conference focused on defining the criteria for evaluation and finding ways of dealing with the risks and threats faced by the economy. The Mongolia Economic Forum, an independent, non-governmental organization committed to improving and creating a common concept to accelerate the development of Mongolia, held its fourth and fifth forums on 4 and 5 March 2013 and 24 and 25 March 2014 respectively, to discuss, among other things, issues related to the economic security of the country.

23. The World Economic Forum strategic dialogue on the future of Mongolia was successfully organized in Ulaanbaatar on 14 and 15 September 2013. It provided an unparalleled opportunity to bring together representatives of the Government and other leading domestic and international stakeholders to explore viable economic development pathways. The meeting formed an essential part of the World Economic Forum project "Scenarios for Mongolia", the outcomes of which were presented at the annual meeting of the Forum in Davos-Klosters in January 2014.

B. Human security

24. The national security concept of Mongolia identifies human security as one of the fundamental pillars of national security. Creating a healthy and safe living environment for people, ensuring food security, guaranteeing security of residence and the living environment and protecting people from crime and assault are defined as the basis for ensuring human security.

25. Over recent years, Mongolia has continued its cooperation with the international organizations in implementing specific projects and programmes aimed at meeting the human security challenges. Thus, with the assistance of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and in cooperation with UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization, it has successfully implemented a project on promoting social equality in the Gobi areas of south Mongolia by fostering human security through integrated and preventive approaches (2010-2013). To respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, the project supported an integrated package of coordinated interventions in the health, education, water, sanitation and economic sectors.

26. Food security remains an important issue in Mongolia, not only due to the negative impacts of global climate change and environmental degradation, but also because of its own specific handicaps. In 2011, with the support and assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the

Government adopted a national programme on food security and started to implement it. At present, over 20 programmes and projects aimed at promoting food supply and ensuring food safety and security are being implemented at the national and branch levels.

27. Combating human trafficking is becoming one of the challenges facing Mongolia, where it is relatively a new phenomenon. The Government is taking legal, administrative and other necessary measures to combat this non-traditional challenge and to raise public awareness of human trafficking in partnership with, and with the support of, non-governmental organizations. In January 2012, the parliament adopted a law on combating trafficking in persons, a milestone in the anti-trafficking efforts of the country and the culmination of more than three years of intense advocacy by civil society organizations. Two years later, in January 2014, a new law on victim and witness protection, passed by the parliament in 2013, entered into force. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, a newly established national sub-council on combating trafficking in persons, comprising ministries, government agencies and civil society organizations, coordinates the efforts to prevent and combat trafficking.

C. Environmental security

28. Between 2008 and 2012, research was undertaken to identify gaps, conflicts and overlaps in the environmental legislation. As a result, amendments were made to 18 existing laws and two new laws were adopted. At present 27 laws and over 27 national programmes on nature and environment related issues are being implemented in the country.

29. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, a team of national experts was assigned to review progress on Mongolia's Agenda 21 for sustainable development. They looked at what had been achieved, which gaps remained and the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. A report entitled "Mongolia's sustainable development agenda: progress, bottlenecks and a vision for the future" was prepared and published in 2012 with the financial support of UNDP.

30. In June 2013, Mongolia successfully hosted World Environment Day, involving dozens of important events, including the organization of a national forum on green development and a series of discussions on governance and transparency in mining, renewable energy, and NGO involvement in nature protection activities.

31. The Ministry of Environment and Green Development proclaimed 2013 as the year to promote environment education and much has been done to promote understanding of the country's green agenda.

32. To respond more effectively to environmental challenges, the Government has established a new core Ministry of Environment and Green Development. This indicates the importance that the country attaches to environmental issues and its readiness to accept a sustainable development model and a low-carbon economy. As such, the Ministry, with UNDP support, has been working to develop a national green development strategy and a corresponding action programme.

33. A workshop on the theme of "Green economic modelling and system dynamics capacity-building for the T21 model of Mongolia" was organized in Ulaanbaatar on

22 May 2014 in cooperation with UNEP and UNDP. The "Green economy — T21 Mongolia model" will be fully developed by the end of 2014.

D. Information security

34. Following the adoption of the national programme on ensuring information security for the period 2010-2015, in 2010, a series of measures were undertaken at the national level. Thus, in 2011 the Government adopted resolution 312 on measures to ensure State information security. On 2 March 2012, the State Communication Department was reorganized into the Cyber Security Department within the General Intelligence Agency.

35. A training seminar entitled "Information security 2013" was organized on 13 August 2013 by the National Security Council in cooperation with the relevant government and private information and communication agencies. The seminar adopted concrete recommendations on measures to be undertaken by the State, the Government and the information and communication agencies. Emphasis has been laid on further improving citizens' knowledge of information security, establishing the national coordination centre for information security and facilitating the process of creating the necessary legal environment for ensuring information and communication security.

36. The drafting process is currently under way on a law on cyber security. A working group was established to that end within the General Intelligence Agency. It is expected that the draft law will be submitted to the parliament in 2014.

37. From 26 to 28 May 2014, in Ulaanbaatar, the fifth Asia-Pacific Telecommunity cyber security forum, organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, was hosted by the national Information Technology, Post and Telecommunication Authority. The objective of the forum was to bring together stakeholders responsible for cyber security systems in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance regional collaborative efforts in combating cybercrime and improving cyber security, countering spam activities and other threats. The forum was attended by participants from 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, who shared information on practical experiences, knowledge and expertise on cyber security, including public awareness. The participants also expressed their willingness to help with the implementation of the project on providing security of information that was launched by the Information Technology, Post and Telecommunication Authority.

E. Regional security

38. Recognizing the need for peace and stability in North-East Asia for national security, the President proposed a dialogue on North-East Asian security in April 2013. The initiative aims to reduce mistrust through informal talks on such issues as economic cooperation, environmental issues, non-traditional security threats and regional stability. During his address to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, the President invited other States of the region to join in the dialogue and to open a discussion to address issues of common interest, including security.

39. In order to promote regional peace and security, Mongolia has annually hosted a multinational peacekeeping exercise, Khaan Quest, in cooperation with the United

States. The goal of the exercise is to bring together representatives of more than a dozen national armed forces around the world to share best practices and interoperability for multinational peacekeeping operations. The Khaan Quest exercise was held from 20 June to 1 July 2014 and hosted nearly 1,000 military personnel, participants and observers from 23 different countries.

IV. Assistance provided by United Nations entities

40. The following section is based on information received to date from the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, UNDP, UNEP and IAEA concerning their respective assistance activities during the reporting period. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that it would not be providing an update on its previous input to the report of the Secretary-General.

A. Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

41. As a landlocked developing country, Mongolia's economy continues to be heavily influenced by its neighbours and therefore extremely vulnerable to their economic performance. Mongolia sources 95 per cent of its petroleum products and a substantial amount of electric power from the Russian Federation. Trade with China represents more than 50 per cent of its external trade, with China receiving more than three quarters of Mongolian exports. As a landlocked country, Mongolia and other landlocked developing countries need to look beyond their immediate neighbours and diversify their sources and destinations of imports and exports. Greater engagement in regional knowledge and experience will be critical.

42. In that context, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States has continued its support to the Government of Mongolia in three main areas: (a) advocacy and raising awareness for international support to Mongolia on issues related to international trade and trade facilitation; (b) the establishment and operationalization of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in Mongolia; and (c) policy dialogue on key economic issues.

43. **International trade and trade facilitation**. With the collaboration of Office of the High Representative and the interim secretariat of the International Think Tank, Mongolia organized a high-level international workshop on the implications for landlocked developing countries of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation on 2 and 3 June 2014 in Ulaanbaatar. The objective of the meeting was to review the progress made in improving trade facilitation in landlocked developing countries; substantively assess the Trade Facilitation Agreement and its implications for landlocked developing countries; equip participants with the necessary knowledge to take advantage effectively of the trade facilitation provisions available to them; and provide policy recommendations that would form substantive inputs to the preparations for the Comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The meeting made several recommendations on the promotion of trade and trade

facilitation, the operationalization of the Think Tank and harmonization of the legal framework.

44. **International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries**. The Office of the High Representative continues to provide substantive support to the operationalization of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries based in Ulaanbaatar. The Think Tank will provide a centre of excellence for high-quality research and policy advice and will contribute to further strengthening the analytical capacities of landlocked developing countries and fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development. The Office of the High Representative continues to advocate the quick ratification of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and to facilitate partnerships between the interim secretariat and development partners, international institutions and other think tanks around the world.

45. **Policy dialogue**. The Office of the High Representative also pursues policy dialogue with Mongolia in the key areas of trade and transit policy formulation, trade and transit negotiations and trade and transport facilitation, climate change, food security and other development challenges by promoting international support, South-South, regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

B. United Nations Development Programme

46. The UNDP Mongolia country programme for the period 2012-2016, approved in 2011, is aligned to three thematic areas based on national priorities: (a) poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (b) democratic governance and (c) environment and sustainable development. Through its country programme, UNDP Mongolia supports the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/70 in three key ways, by focusing on economic development, sustainable development and disaster preparedness.

47. **Strengthening economic security**. To promote inclusive growth and build resilience, UNDP supports Mongolia in strengthening economic security at both the national and community levels. Those interventions aim to support the capacity of the Government to address disparities, vulnerabilities and persistent poverty through evidence-based policymaking, planning and monitoring.

48. With UNDP support over the years, widespread awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and the concept of human development has been created among policymakers and civil society and the Goals have been integrated into national policies and plans. UNDP supports the Government in poverty mapping, strengthening its capacity for data analysis and the development of an integrated macroeconomic model to enhance the capacity of the Government in evidence-based policymaking.

49. UNDP is also supporting the efforts of the Government to improve the alignment between short-term (annual) budget planning and mid- and longer-term development objectives through the development of planning guidelines and strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation framework. Innovative concepts, such as microinsurance and loan guarantee schemes, contributing to the

strengthening of social protection mechanisms, have already been introduced, with support from UNDP.

50. UNDP will also continue to support Mongolia in its global and regional cooperation initiatives such as the operationalization of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries and the Greater Tumen Initiative, the technical cooperation initiative between China, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation aimed at strengthening economic and technical cooperation and attaining greater growth and sustainable development in the region.

51. **Ecological balance and long-term sustainable development**. UNDP supports Mongolia in a range of environmental programmes aimed at maintaining the ecological balance and fostering long-term sustainable development.

52. UNDP has supported the development of national and local capacity for: the sustainable use of land, water and forest resources; environmental governance; access to priority environmental services and policy coordination; and monitoring of policies and legislation for implementation of international conventions.

53. Mongolia has reformed a number of environmental laws with UNDP support. With technical assistance provided by UNDP, the Government has also enhanced its ability to monitor compliance with environmental regulations.

54. UNDP is also supporting landscape-level planning to ensure the sustainable management of pastureland, water and forest resources and the conservation of biodiversity.

55. In the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation, UNDP supports the Government in the implementation of national action programmes for climate change and combating desertification, the development of nationally appropriate mitigation actions and developing the capacity of the nascent Climate Change Coordination Authority. In its work, UNDP prioritizes the demonstration of proven adaptation measures to maintain ecosystem functionality and minimize the vulnerabilities of local communities.

56. In biodiversity conservation, UNDP is supporting the Government in the sustainable management of protected areas with managed resources and self-sustaining financing options for those areas.

57. In addition, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and other development partners, UNDP is supporting the capacity of State and non-State actors to deliver safe drinking water and improved sanitation services.

58. **Disaster risk management**. Directly linked to national security planning, UNDP has for some time supported the Government of Mongolia in the area of disaster risk management.

59. Much of the initial focus of the UNDP disaster risk management support was on improving national capacities for emergency response and on the formulation of the national programme on disaster prevention and the national climate risk management strategy.

60. UNDP is currently working to facilitate decentralized disaster risk management. It does so by supporting the development of subnational mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and response and tailoring them to urban and rural settings. The goal is to reduce the risks and consequences of natural and man-made

disasters at the national and community levels, while improving the resilience of ecosystems and vulnerable populations facing climate change.

61. **Democratic governance and human rights**. In the area of democratic governance and human rights, UNDP supports the Government and non-government actors in a number of projects.

62. It is supporting the capacity-building of local elected representatives, including offering induction training to over 7,000 elected representatives in their core competencies.

63. It is also supporting the parliament in a study of the constitution; improving legislative drafting processes; increasing the capacity for public consultation and policy analysis; and developing the capacity to fight corruption.

64. UNDP also provides support to the national human rights commission of Mongolia in improving its monitoring and reporting on emerging human rights issues, such as the impact of red tape and of mining on human rights and the human rights of people with disabilities and of sexual minorities.

C. United Nations Environment Programme

65. The United Nations Environment Programme has continued to promote the ecological balance in Mongolia by providing technical assistance to, and working with, relevant stakeholder groups that are active in the environmental dimension of sustainable development. On the occasion of the celebration of World Environment Day, held on 5 June 2013 in Ulaanbaatar, UNEP announced that Mongolia was one of the first countries receiving assistance through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, an inter-agency mechanism initiated as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to help countries make the transition to a green economy. The Government of Mongolia, led by the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Environment and Green Development, with support from UNEP, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research has started a green economy modelling exercise, which covers energy, mining, urban development, agriculture and natural resource management. The results from the modelling during the initial phase of the Partnership (2013-2014) will be one of the key inputs for determining the investment required for the implementation of the national green development strategy.

66. UNEP has also provided technical assistance and financial support to Mongolia to develop its draft strategy for green development and a scoping paper on the green economy and sustainable consumption and production. Mongolia is one of the countries where UNEP is implementing the SWITCH-Asia regional policy support programme to strengthen the formulation and implementation of policies related to sustainable consumption and production in Asia. Mongolia is participating in particular in the preliminary assessment of capacity-building and policy needs in this area and related regional and subregional capacity-building activities.

67. Through one of its collaborating centres, GRID-Arendal in Norway, UNEP has supported a project to combat climate change by enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods. The project is aimed at assessing the impact of change of land use and climate change on nomadic pastoralists and on their options and

opportunities for adaptation, focusing on taiga reindeer- and yak-herding in Mongolia and the Russian Federation. The project also seeks to increase the resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change of nomadic communities, while building partnerships between reindeer- and yak-herding communities, strengthening local institutions and increasing the capacity of nomadic herders to engage in land use and natural resource management.

68. Other UNEP activities in relation to climate change include supporting Mongolia in preparing the country's third national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will include information on the impact of climate change and the vulnerability of the country, greenhouse gas emissions and potential mitigation options. Mongolia is a member of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in Developing Countries. Jointly implemented by FAO, UNDP and UNEP, the programme supports national readiness in Mongolia for the transformative strategies and finance approaches for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, known as REDD-plus, including the preparation of a national REDD-plus readiness road map, which is expected to be finalized in June 2014. It is very likely that a programme on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, worth $4 million over three years, will start at the end of 2014.

69. On a related matter, the Government inaugurated a 15-megawatt capacity wind farm on Salhit Mountain, Tuv Province, in June 2013 on the occasion of the celebration of World Environment Day. Mongolia is known to have vast potential for wind power, with good-to-excellent wind resources equivalent to 1,113,300 MW of electric potential. Electricity generation from wind turbines constitutes about 10 per cent of the total electricity generated through renewable energy sources.

70. Through the Poverty-Environment Initiative, a joint initiative between UNDP and UNEP, UNEP is supporting a project entitled "Strengthened government capacity for national development policy and planning" in Mongolia. The project is expected to contribute to greening the planning and budgeting processes through mainstreaming effective natural resource management and reduced vulnerability to climate change in those processes at national and subnational levels and building partnerships for ongoing support to the country including the Partnership for Action on Green Economy.

71. UNEP has provided substantial support to Mongolia through the regional ozone compliance assistance programme. Mongolia is in full compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and has been implementing an institutional strengthening project since October 1996 and a project on plans to manage phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons since April 2011. Some of the activities under the project include improvement of the legislative framework; training customs officers in monitoring, control and identification of hydrochlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbon-based equipment; provision of training materials and identification tool kits; training for refrigeration technicians in improvement of good practices to reduce leakage and additional tools for technicians; awareness-raising activities; and project coordination and monitoring.

D. International Atomic Energy Agency

72. During the reporting period, IAEA continued to support Mongolia in meeting its safeguard obligations and non-proliferation commitments by assisting it to maintain an effective State system of accounting for, and control of, nuclear material.

73. In September 2012, the IAEA Department of Safeguards provided input to a seminar on nuclear energy and non-proliferation, which was hosted by the Government in cooperation with the Japan Atomic Energy Agency. In particular, the Department of Safeguards contributed to sessions on safeguards in the development of the State system of accounting for and control of nuclear material. In addition, representatives of Mongolia continued to attend IAEA training sessions. In this context, one representative from Mongolia took part in a workshop on nuclear security and safeguards organized by the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia, which was held in Hanoi from 18 to 20 December 2012.

74. The IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security worked with the Nuclear Energy Agency of Mongolia on development of an integrated nuclear security support plan to assist Mongolia in applying a structured and holistic approach to capacity-building for nuclear security and enabling increased coordination between the Agency, the State and potential donors. The plan covers all aspects of nuclear security, including the development of human resources, the capability to detect unauthorized movement of nuclear materials at the border and the security of radioactive sources. In collaboration with IAEA, the Nuclear Energy Agency hosted a meeting in 2013 to facilitate the development of the plan, which was finalized at a meeting held from 23 to 25 July 2013.

75. In September 2013, on the margins of the IAEA General Conference, Mongolia celebrated its fortieth anniversary as a Member State of the Agency. The event included a detailed presentation of the benefits Mongolia had gained from nuclear technology and the technical cooperation support it had received from IAEA. Since 1973, Mongolia has received continuous assistance from IAEA in the form of training courses, expert advice and the procurement of equipment worth over $13 million. Over the past 40 years, Mongolia has taken part in approximately 60 national projects and numerous regional technical cooperation projects focused on agriculture, including enhancing livestock health and improving crop yield, and addressing health challenges with radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. Other projects have covered areas such as nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear science, energy planning and mining.

76. In 2014, the Mongolian authorities alerted IAEA about outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in the country. In order to support the national drive to combat the disease and protect the livelihoods of farmers, the Agency provided assistance through its technical cooperation programme. An expert mission to Mongolia was undertaken from 7 to 11 April 2014 to assess the situation and advise the authorities on urgent actions to contain the outbreaks of the disease and on the medium- to long-term actions that were necessary to prevent it reoccurring in the affected areas and to support vaccine production and formulation activities. In addition, a pilot facility to produce experimental irradiated vaccines is being established.

V. Conclusion

77. As described above, on 17 September 2012, with the parallel declarations by Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States regarding Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, a major milestone was achieved. That status continues to be consolidated and institutionalized and has gained wide recognition.

78. Furthermore, various United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes have provided assistance to Mongolia in addressing the developmental, ecological, economic, humanitarian and human security aspects of its international security.

79. The Secretary-General hopes that the assistance provided by the United Nations will further contribute to consolidating Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and achieving sustainable development and balanced growth, as well as reinforcing its efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.